



Migration to secure future employment – how do workplace closures affect the geography of the workforce?

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Migration to secure future employment – How do workplace closures affect the geography of the workforce?

Abstract

This paper investigates migration patterns in the aftermath of an economic shock. By identifying workers laid-off due to workplace closures, this paper analyses whether the extent of differences in migration patterns depend on laid-off people living in urban, intermediary, rural or peripheral areas. The study is inspired by the increasing migration towards the major urban settings but addresses a gap in current research; namely are the migration dynamics of laid-off workers in thin labour markets, e.g. rural and peripheral labour markets, fundamentally different from those in thick labour markets after an economic shock like workplace closures? The study finds that (1) the majority of people being laid-off after a workplace closure are reemployed, and most of them within the regions where they reside, (2) Laid-off workers due to a workplace closure in non-urban regions are less likely to migrate and find employment than laid-off workers from urban regions however (3) younger laid-off individuals from non-urban areas have a tendency to migrate towards urban areas, where they start education, which can be seen as a way to upskill themselves and thereby secure future job opportunities.